

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN ARTIST MICHAEL CARD

-----, 2013 (David Cloud, Fundamental Baptist Information Service, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061, 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org; for instructions about subscribing and unsubscribing or changing addresses, see the information paragraph at the end of the article)

Michael Card (b. 1956) lists several modernistic and Roman Catholic authors as major influences with no warning to the viewers about their theological heresies and false gospels. These include Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Malcolm Muggeridge, F.F. Bruce, and Henri Nouwen. Bonhoeffer rejected Christ's virgin birth, bodily resurrection, and substitutionary atonement, and the infallibility of Bible inspiration. According to Bonhoeffer, it is a "cardinal error" to regard Christianity as a religion of salvation. As for Muggeridge, Card specifically mentions his blasphemous book *Jesus Rediscovered*, in which he denied the virgin birth, deity, and bodily resurrection of Christ. F.F. Bruce denied the eternal fire of hell and promoted the annihilation heresy. Henri Nouwen is a liberal Catholic priest who supported homosexuality and liberation theology and held the heresy of universalism.

Michael Card is radically ecumenical. In 1996, he produced an album (*Brother to Brother*) jointly with John Michael Talbot, who is a Roman Catholic, prays to Mary, and practices yoga. Of this venture, Card testified: "Doing this project has enabled us to become real friends. And along the way, the denominational lines have become really meaningless to me, and to John, too" (*CCM Magazine*, July 1996).

To say that denominational division is meaningless is to say that doctrine is not important, because doctrine is one of the key things which divides denominations and churches. Timothy's job in Ephesus was to "charge some that they TEACH NO OTHER DOCTRINE" (1 Timothy 1:3). That is the very strictest view of doctrinal purity. God forbids sound to associate with those who hold false doctrine (Romans 16:17). To say that the denominational lines pertaining to Romanism are meaningless is to say that false doctrines such as the mass, the papacy, the priesthood, sacramental salvation, prayers to the dead, Mary the Queen of Heaven, Purgatory, etc., are unimportant.

Card and Talbot embarked on a concert tour which included concerts in eight cities, "with the audience mix estimated at 50 percent Catholic and 50 percent Protestant" (*Charisma*, December 1996, p. 29). In March 1996, they performed together for the largest gathering of Catholics in America at the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress. Roughly 20,000 "clergy and laity" attended this congress. Both men also spoke at the formation retreat for the Catholic Musicians Association of which Talbot is the president.

On their album Talbot and Card sing: "There is one faith/ One hope and one baptism/ One God and Father of all/ There is one church, one body, one life in the spirit/ Now given so freely for all."

What faith? What baptism? What church? The Roman Catholic faith is not the Bible faith. It's baptismal regeneration certainly is not biblical baptism. The Roman church is not the New Testament church. Why would Michael Card pretend that he and John Talbot are singing about the same thing? If he believes Talbot's faith is the one true faith, why does he not become a Roman Catholic?

It is painfully obvious that doctrinal truth means nothing to these CCM performers. If the pope is truly the Vicar of Christ and the head of all Christians, it would be wicked to deny it; but if the Catholic papacy is nothing but a man-made tradition, it is wicked to believe it. If Mary is truly the immaculate, ever-virgin Queen of Heaven, it would be wicked to deny it; but if the Catholic Mary is a demonic idol, it is wicked to believe it. There is no middle ground here. There can be no fellowship between those who hold doctrines this diverse. The Bible says those who teach doctrine contrary to that which the apostles delivered are to be marked and avoided (Romans 16:17). The Bible wisely asks: "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" (Amos 3:3).

Card led the singing for the "Evening of Friendship" at the Salt Lake City Tabernacle on November 14, 2004. The crowd was composed of Mormons and "evangelical" Christians of various stripes. In the *Deseret Morning News*, Card is quoted as saying that "he doesn't see Mormonism and evangelical Christianity as opposed to each other; they are more like the two ends of a long thread -- part of the same thing." He said, "The older I get, I guess the more I want to integrate everything. I think it's more important to be faithful than right" ("Songwriter puts faith to music and verse," *Deseret Morning News*, Nov. 16, 2004). Yet the Bible says salvation comes only by the apostolic doctrine (Rom. 6:17) and those who preach false gospels are cursed (Galatians 1). Card now has the distinction of having the greatest ecumenical reach of any of the CCM artists. At the one extreme he performs for Mormons and for Roman Catholics. His close friend is John Michael Talbot, the Roman Catholic contemporary musician who prays to Mary. And at the other extreme, Card even performs for independent Baptists.

Card is a fan of the heretic Brennan Manning and is a supporter of Manning's extremely dangerous contemplative prayer. In *The Signature of Jesus*, Manning instructs his readers to "stop thinking about God at the time of prayer" and to delve into "the great silent of God" through the use of "a single, sacred word" (pages 88-89). This is exactly what Hindus and Buddhists do through their mystical practices. They chant a mantra in order to experience oneness with God. Manning instructs people *not* to use the Bible during contemplative prayer practices. He spent six months in isolation in a cave in Spain and he spends eight days a year at a Jesuit retreat center in Colorado during which he speaks only 45 minutes each day. His spiritual director is a Dominican nun. Manning calls centering prayer a "GREAT DARKNESS" (*The Signature of Jesus*, p. 145) and an entire chapter of his book is devoted to "Celebrate the Darkness." He does not know how correct he is in this description. Contemplative prayer, which is borrowed from the great darkness of Rome's monastic system, is a recipe for spiritual delusion and many have followed this path to universalism, panentheism, and even goddess worship. (See "Contemplative Spirituality Dancing with Demons" and "Contemplative Practices Are a Bridge to Paganism" at the Way of Life web site.)

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